

The Senses Framework and how it can support relationship based care for people with dementia

Professor Tony Ryan

The Senses
Framework



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Today

- Describe the foundations of the Senses Framework
- Discuss the Senses Framework and how it promotes 'Relationship based care'
- Apply this to a palliative care context for people with dementia

Person-centred care

- Personhood and dementia (Kitwood 1997)
- Features of person centred care (Kitson 2013)
- Person- centred nursing processes and the context of care (McCormack & McCance 2010)

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The Senses Framework

For the person with
Dementia:



- Security – to feel safe physically, psychologically, existentially
- Belonging - to feel part of a valued group, to maintain or form important relationships
- Continuity - to be able to make links between the past, present and future
- Purpose - to enjoy meaningful activity, to have valued goals
- Achievement - to reach valued goals to satisfaction of self and/or others
- Significance - to feel that you 'matter' and are accorded value and status

Nolan, M.R., Davies, S., Brown, J., Keady, J. and Nolan, J., 2004. Beyond 'person-centred' care: a new vision for gerontological nursing. *Journal of clinical nursing*, 13, pp.45-53.

What about the health care professional?

- 'Rust out' (Nolan & Grant 1993)
- Working conditions (Westermann et al 2014)
- Psychological impact of care work (Woodhead et al 2017)
- Therapeutic reciprocity (Marck 1990)

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Creating the right environment for others to grow?

- Not just 'others' but everyone 'If employees are abandoned and abused, probably clients will be too. If employees are supported and encouraged they will take their sense of well-being into their day-to-day work'. (Kitwood 1997)

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The Therapeutic Quadrangle

Rolland 1988

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The Senses Framework (Nolan et al 2004)

- Seeks to address the collective needs
- Addresses relational concerns
- Provides a model for development as well as evaluation
- Has been used across the world to impact upon care services

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For the nurse/HCP

- **Security** - to have secure conditions at work, to feel free from rebuke
- **Belonging** - to be part of a team, a community of practice
- **Continuity** - to be exposed to good role models, to feel one's career is developing
- **Purpose** - to have clear therapeutic direction in one's work
- **Achievement** – to feel that you are making a contribution
- **Significance** - to feel that your work is valued by others

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For the family carer

- **Security** - to feel confident, competent and knowledgeable. To care without detriment to one's own health
- **Belonging** - to remain socially 'connected'
- **Continuity** - to continue to share activities with the cared for person and to remain involved in care across environments
- **Purpose** - to maintain dignity and identity for the cared for person, to engage in reconstructive care
- **Achievement** – to be able to see that one's caring efforts make a difference
- **Significance** - to feel valued and appreciated

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The Senses Framework

Palliative Care

Sense	Person with Dementia	Nurse or HCP	Family member
Security	Free from psychological / physical / spiritual pain		
Belonging	Maintained relationships through 'body work'		
Continuity	Supporting selfhood (activities)		
Purpose	To have others recognise one's goals		
Achievement	'Authentic human encounters' matter		
Significance	'Subtle connections' (touch, talk)		

Acknowledge Julie Watson's embodiment paper (see references)

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The Senses Framework

Palliative Care



Sense	Person with Dementia	Nurse or HCP	Family member
Security	Free from psychological / physical / spiritual pain	Protected from the demands of care work	
Belonging	Maintained relationships through 'body work'	To be a part of a supportive PC network	
Continuity	Supporting selfhood (activities)	Others value and extend a career in PC for PWD	
Purpose	To have others recognise one's distress goals	To know that 'body work' = therapeutic direction	
Achievement	'Authentic human encounters' matter	To feel one's care work is contributing	
Significance	'Subtle connections' (touch, talk)	'Subtle connections' (touch, talk)	

Acknowledge Julie Watson's embodiment paper (see references)

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The Senses Framework

Palliative Care



Sense	Person with Dementia	Nurse or HCP	Family member
Security	Free from psychological / physical / spiritual pain	Protected from the demands of care work	To feel informed about what may happen
Belonging	Maintained relationships through 'body work'	To be a part of a supportive PC network	To know other carers (be socially connected)
Continuity	Supporting selfhood (activities)	Others value and extend a career in PC for PWD	Continue to be part of hospice/care home
Purpose	To have others recognise one's distress goals	To know that 'body work' = therapeutic direction	Maintain PWD identity through 'body work'
Achievement	'Authentic human encounters' matter	To feel one's care work is contributing	'small' contributions are recognised
Significance	'Subtle connections' (touch, talk)	'Subtle connections' (touch, talk)	To know that one is part of the team

Acknowledge Julie Watson's embodiment paper (see references)

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Conclusions

- The Senses Framework has become a well-established model for the development and evaluation of individual, collective and organisational practice
- There is evidence that it can be used in this way in a palliative care context for people with dementia

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Thank you

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